

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: MTA/Northeast Extension of the
Baltimore Metro

SURVEY NO.: B-4212

AREA: Jonestown

MAGI NO.:

ADDRESS: 6-12 North Central Avenue
CURRENT NAME:BLOCK: LOT:
HEIGHT: LOT SIZE:
CONDITION: Good-FairMATERIALS: Brick
OWNER:
ADDRESS:
ACCESSIBLE:
LIBER/FOLIO:USE: Historic--church/school
Present--commercial
DESIGNATION:HISTORIC NAME: St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church and School
DATE: ca. 1860 and ca. 1900
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION: 6-12 North Central Avenue, located between E. Fayette and Baltimore Streets, in the Jonestown Planning District of central Baltimore, MD., is a rectangular church building with a four story brick factory addition on its north elevation. The church, constructed ca. 1860, is a plain Greek Revival building, with a pedimented front gable, unadorned frieze, and paired flat corner pilasters. The pilasters have simple molded wood capitals. The church was originally symmetrical in appearance with two double story windows above two doors. The south door is now bricked in and only the uppermost section of the fenestrations remain. The original window hoods are still intact. The connecting factory building, constructed ca. 1900, is three bays wide. Some of the windows have been bricked in. The factory has a molded wrap around cornice which matches the church's molding.

SIGNIFICANCE:

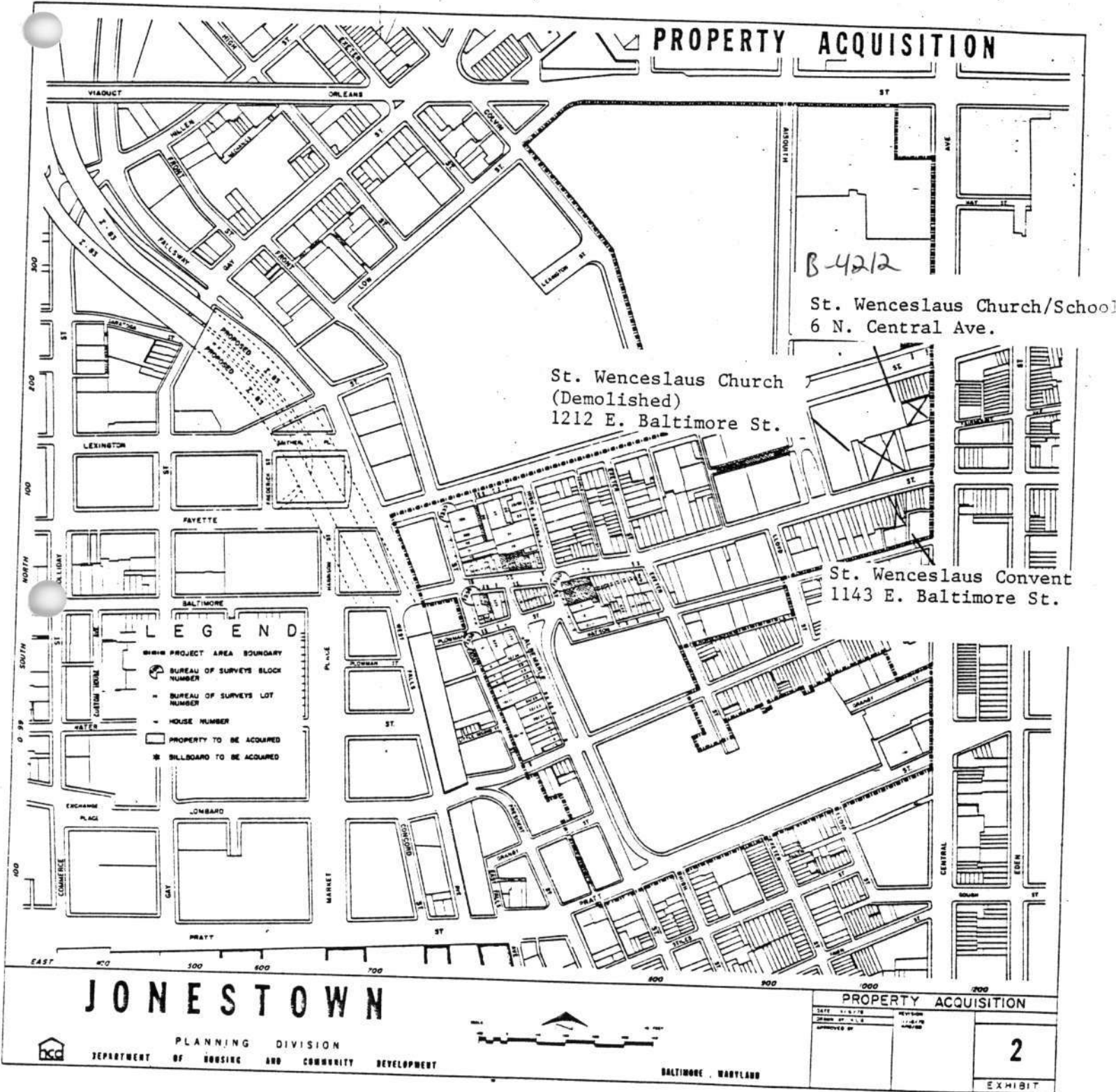
AREA: Architecture/religion LEVEL: Local

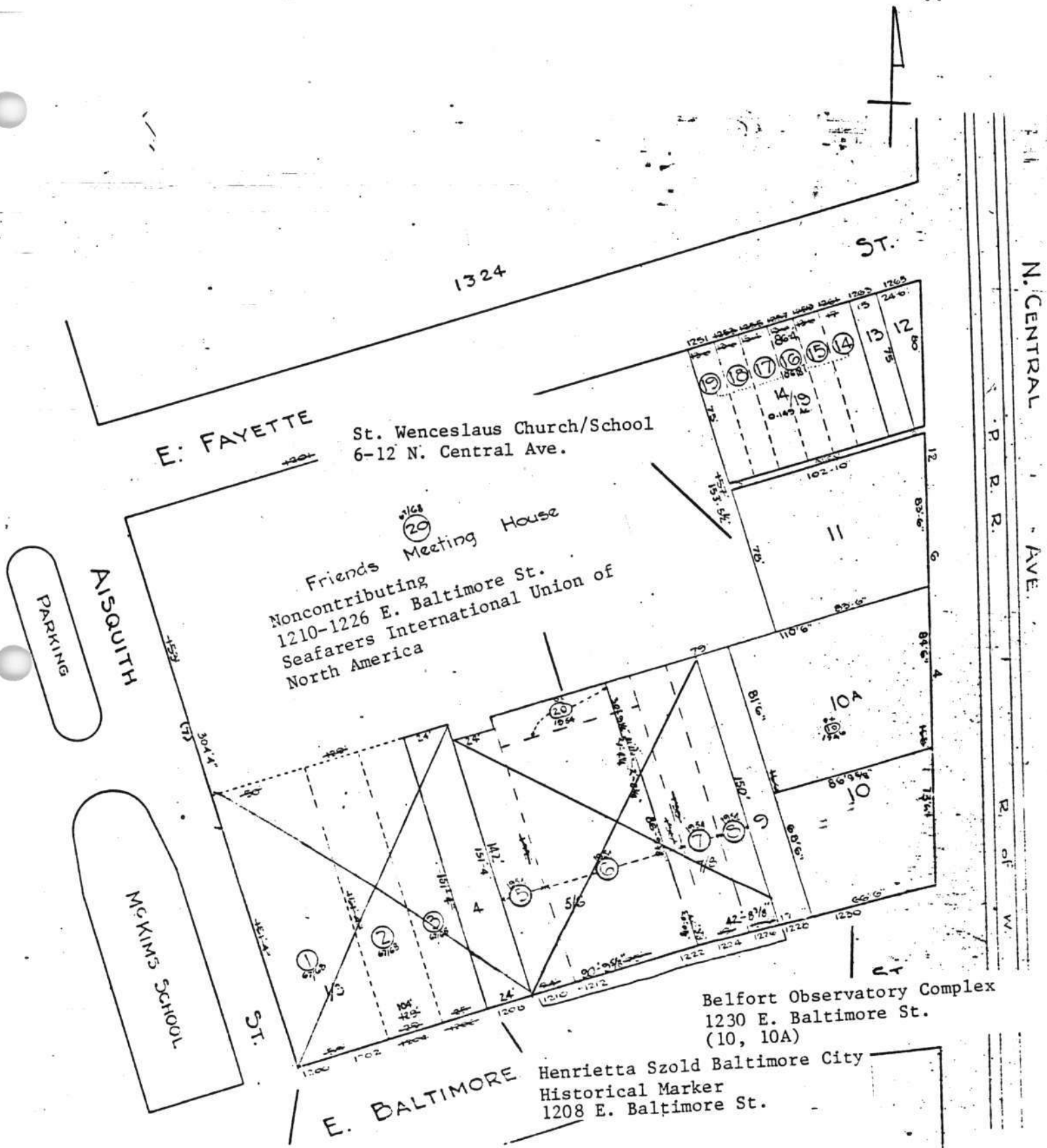
6-12 N. Central St., although located next to the National Register eligible Belfort Observatory Complex and one block west of the proposed Washington Hill Baltimore City Historic District, is isolated from its original context, due to the demolition of surrounding buildings and the construction of modern noncontributing buildings, and therefore would not be National Register eligible. The buildings, however, still have historic value and contribute to the understanding of the development of central Baltimore. In the 1820/30s the moneyed people who lived in the vicinity of Jonestown moved north, away from the city, and the area became more commercial in appearance, while remaining a residential community for immigrants and the working class. 6-12 N. Central contributes to a better understanding of the life of the immigrants who lived in east Baltimore. 6 N. Central, a former German Lutheran church, was purchased in 1872 to serve as the St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church and minister to the Bohemians (Czechoslovakians), Poles, and Lithuanians of east Baltimore. In 1885 the parish expanded its holdings and purchased a Universalist Church on E. Baltimore St. (1213 E. Baltimore, now demolished). The religious services were moved to the Baltimore Street building and the Central Ave. church became the parochial school. Classes were taught in both English and Czech. Between 1903-1915 the church moved out of the area. By 1914 the J.E. Smith Co. paperbox factory was located in the Central Ave. church and the factory building was finished. The latest inhabitant of 6-12 N. Central Ave. has been the St. Vincent de Paul Society's thrift store. The history of the building does reflect the social changes that have taken place around it.

SOURCES: Maryland Historical Society, Library, Vertical Files; Poppleton Maps. 1819. 1852.; Saint Wenceslaus Church. n.p.: Chandler Liturgical Books. 1972.; Sachse Bird's Eye View. 1869.

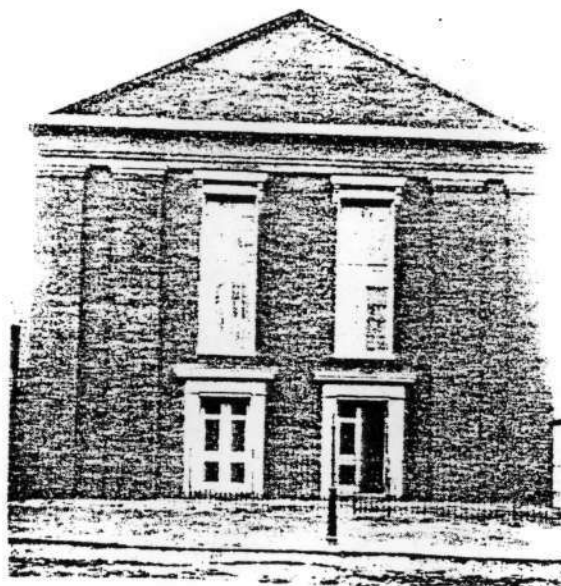
SURVEYOR AND DATE: Mary K. Mannix, March 1987

ST. WENCESLAUS PARISH FACILITIES
1872-1915





CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF SURVEYS
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
WARD 5 SECTION 8
BLOCK 1339



6 North Central Avenue, not dated.

Saint Wenceslaus Church. (n.p.: Chandler Liturgical Books,
1972), p.7

St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church & School
6-12 N. Central Avenue
Block 1339, Lot 011
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

